

ABAG
Mar/Apr 2006



Service Matters

Managing Risk through Public Policy in Earthquake Country Spring General Assembly Examines Disaster Policy in Action

What would happen if the 1906 earthquake happened today? How prepared are we and what mitigation steps have we taken to lessen the impact? These are just some of the questions that will be addressed at “**Managing Risk through Public Policy in Earthquake Country**,” ABAG’s Spring General Assembly on Thursday, April 20, 2006, at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. The General Assembly, which is being held as part of the national “100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference Commemorating the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake,” will bring together elected officials and staff from the Bay Area’s nine counties and 101 cities and towns, civic



1906 San Francisco Earthquake Photo provided by USGS Photo Library Archive

and private sector leaders, as well as national conference attendees. ABAG’s Business Meeting will also be held during the General Assembly, requiring the attendance of all ABAG member city and county delegates and/or alternates.

Highlights

Speakers will include California Senate President pro Tem Don Perata and an array of local government policymakers and experts on earthquake, disaster response, and mitigation. The opening Earthquake Scenario plenary session features the latest simulation and modeling technology to demonstrate the kind of

damage, shaking, and response that would occur if the 1906 Earthquake happened today. The expert panel examining 1906 in today’s terms include Greg Beroza, Professor of Geophysics at Stanford University; Charlie Kircher, Structural Engineer, Kircher and Associates; and Richard Eisner, Regional Administrator/Coastal Region, Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

Attendees will be briefed on public policy opportunities and obstacles regarding earthquake mitigation and community preparedness. In the panel “**Taking Responsibility and Avoiding Blame**,” technical experts include Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector of the City and County of San Francisco; Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and Ana Marie Jones, Executive Director of Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters. In “**Leading to Action**,” Oregon State Senator Peter Courtney, President pro Tem, will join Phillip Ganderton, Chair of the University of New Mexico’s Department of Economics, and Raymond Brady, Systems Solutions Consulting in New Orleans, to talk about public policy in action. Local government elected officials will provide feedback to panel presentations and give examples with audience participation.

100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference Commemorating the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, April 18-22

Sponsored by California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the Seismological Society of America, Disaster Resistant California, and ABAG, the national 100th Anniversary Earthquake conference, offers more than 100 special sessions, tutorials (developed just for teachers and the business community), and field trips covering issues critical to earth scientists, building owners, emergency responders, earthquake engineers, policy makers, and disaster mitigation professionals.

For more information on the national conference program and registration, visit www.1906eqconf.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

Spring General Assembly Examines Disaster Policy
San Francisco Bay Trail Gap
Existing Land Use in 2005

page 1
page 2
page 2

ABAG PLAN Celebrates 20 Years
Calendar of Events
Notable Numbers

page 3
page 4
page 4

San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Analysis Study

“When will it be completed, and how much will it cost?” are the two most commonly asked questions raised by decision-makers regarding the Bay Trail. **The San**

Francisco Bay Trail Gap Analysis Study answers these questions and more. The Study is available on the Bay Trail website (www.baytrail.org), and represents the concerted efforts of the ABAG Bay Trail staff past and present, GreenInfo Network, and Alta Planning + Design to make Bay Trail planning information accessible.

Questions Answered

According to the Bay Trail Gap Analysis Study, it is estimated that the entire trail could be completed by 2020 at a cost of \$188,000,000. This cost estimate does not include trail segments that would be constructed as part of transportation infrastructure (Caltrans) projects or those required as a permit condition. While this cost may be initially alarming, the study provides some benefits that completion of the system will bring. For example: given estimates of the existing annual number of Bay Trail users (39,892,899), it was conservatively estimated that each of the users spent a minimum of \$5 for various supplies associated with their visit. This spending resulted in a \$189,400,000 economic boost in 2005.

Multiple Use Study

The geodatabase and geographic information system (GIS) created as background for the study provides details about every gap in the Bay Trail system, and includes such information as: lead agency, proposed trail type and surface, obstacles to implementation, cost for construction, design and permitting, and estimated completion timeline. Having this information available will allow staff to query the system with important administrative questions, such as, “How much Class 1 trail is ready to be constructed in the short term (1-5 years) in a certain legislative district, and what is the estimated cost?” In addition, GreenInfo Network has set up GIS map templates enabling staff to quickly produce high-quality maps of legislative districts that can highlight any number of important aspects of the Bay Trail Project in a given area. These valuable maps and information will assist ongoing efforts to secure funding for the Bay Trail from traditional sources such as the legislature and the Coastal Conservancy, and to add new sources of funding. The Bay Trail has currently completed 270 miles, more than half of the projected 500 miles.



Existing Land Use Data Report for Bay Area Counties

“The *Existing Land Use in 2005: Data for Bay Area Counties*” report compiled by ABAG was released late January. Issued every five years since the mid-1980s, this latest report analyzes current patterns of land use in the nine-county region and land use changes in the period from 2000-2005. The extensive existing land use data and mapping that this report provides are necessary for a number of local and regional planning functions. The findings are important for understanding development trends and their implications for smart growth, environmental health and quality, and for estimating potential for future urban development and redevelopment. The report is also an essential part of environmental quality analysis (such as surface runoff, wetlands inventories, and air quality analyses), and hazard impact work (such as the impact of wildland fires, flooding, or a major earthquake). Summary data is available online at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbhw.html> with the full report and data available for purchase through the ABAG webstore at <http://store.abag.ca.gov>.

General findings include:

- Expansion at the Eastern Contra Costa, Eastern Alameda, Southern Santa Clara counties, and, to a lesser extent, the I-80 corridor of Solano County have seen development of single-family homes and commercial areas on large lots of formerly agricultural and range lands.
- Urban Core Redevelopment: Change has consisted primarily in the redevelopment of industrial areas into large-scale commercial, residential and high-density mixed use developments. Major areas include San Francisco’s Rincon and Mission Bay Areas, as well as the Bayshore areas of Emeryville and Oakland, and areas adjacent to public transit stations.
- Military Redevelopment Continuing: Former military bases, such as Hunter’s Point Shipyard and the Presidio in San Francisco, are experiencing redevelopment. In addition, some redevelopment has occurred in the form of small-scale reuse of individual lots and buildings.

ABAG PLAN Celebrates 20 Years

Providing Affordable, Innovative Insurance Services to Cities and Counties

Since 1985, a time of crisis for local governments due to a lack of affordable insurance, ABAG has worked with its members to create and sustain risk management and insurance services for local governments. ABAG Pooled Liability Assurance Network (PLAN) Corporation is a non-profit corporation that benefits the citizens of each member community by establishing a stable, cost-effective self-insurance, risk sharing and risk management program for each member.



PLAN is run by ABAG under the direction of its member communities.

Working together, ABAG PLAN members have been able to sustain activities considered too risky by the insurance industry and expand into new services, such as skate and swim parks. The results have been impressive. ABAG PLAN Corporation now provides property and liability insurance to 32 cities and towns in the Bay Area.

Starting with 23 members, ABAG PLAN handled 450 claims that first year. In 2005, ABAG PLAN handled 750 claims via in-house, professional claims adjusters. PLAN has grown to achieve assets in excess of \$40 million and has returned over \$20 million to its members in dividends.

ABAG PLAN has been successful because it remains flexible to member needs during times of transition. As risks have increased and budgets have been stretched, members have been able to leverage the resources of PLAN to assist them in maintaining their risk management programs.

According to Marcus Beverly, ABAG PLAN Manager, “We are working together to share resources and best practices that will continue to help our members weather the changes ahead. A significant change is our new Risk Management Policy, designed to encourage members to provide a strong risk management framework for city/town operations. The Policy effectively identifies and analyzes risks, establishing recommended strategies (best practices), monitors effectiveness, and provides incentives to maintain and improve results.”

ABAG PLAN has led the way through innovative risk management assistance such as purchasing a police defensive driving simulator and developing the “Be Sewer Smart” public awareness campaign to prevent and reduce the impact of backflows. “These solutions are just part of the way we meet our members’ needs and we plan to continue partnering with cities and towns for risk services,” Beverly commented.

For more information about ABAG PLAN, please contact Marcus Beverly at 510-464-7969 or marcusb@abag.ca.gov.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 2006

March 15

PLAN Finance Committee 10:00 a.m.
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

March 16

**Legislation & Governmental
Organization Committee**

Meeting 3:30 p.m.
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Finance and Personnel

Committee Meeting 5:00 p.m.
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

Executive Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
MetroCenter, Auditorium

March 17

**ABAG/BAAQMD/MTC Joint Policy
Committee** 10:00 a.m.
MetroCenter, Auditorium

April 2006

April 5

**Regional Planning Committee
Meeting** 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
MetroCenter, Auditorium

April 13

**Bay Trail Steering
Committee** 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
MetroCenter, Auditorium

April 18-22

**100th Anniversary Earthquake
Conference**
The Moscone Center, San Francisco

April 20

ABAG Spring General Assembly
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
The Moscone Center North
San Francisco

Notable Numbers

100th Anniversary of the San Francisco 1906 Earthquake

100

Years since the San Francisco 1906 earthquake and 17 years since Loma Prieta earthquake.

7.8

Was the magnitude of the San Francisco 1906 earthquake; 6.9 was the magnitude of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

290

Miles were ruptured in the 1906 earthquake, as compared with the 25 miles of rupture from Loma Prieta.

\$400 million

In property damage (1906 dollars) was caused by the 1906 earthquake, with \$5.9 billion damage caused by the Loma Prieta earthquake.

225,000

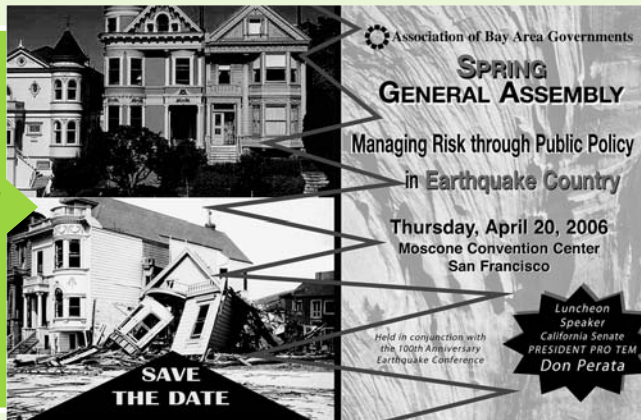
People were homeless following the San Francisco 1906 earthquake (more than 1/2 of San Francisco's population at that time), as compared with 35,000 people who were homeless after the Loma Prieta earthquake.

85%

Of the total damage to San Francisco in 1906 can be indirectly attributed to liquefaction. In contrast, 1.6% of damage costs from Loma Prieta were due to liquefaction, although most damage was due to ground shaking.

ABAG Earthquake Program

**SAVE
THE DATE
April 20, 2006
Call 510-464-7900
for more
information**



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